

Empire House  
111-113 East Dominick Street  
Rome  
Oneida County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5508

HABS  
NY  
33-Rom  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## EMPIRE HOUSE

Location: 111-113 East Dominick Street, Rome, Oneida County,  
New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The land on which the city of Rome is now located was included in the Oriskany Patent, which was granted to Thomas Weston and others about 1705. In 1785 the patent was surveyed and divided into allotments. Previous to that time a parcel located to the south and west of the remains of Fort Stanwix had been surveyed and reserved for sale at an auction, in order to pay for the expense of surveying the remainder of the patent. This parcel was subsequently termed the "Expense Lot."

On January 9, 1786, a lottery was held to distribute the other parcels of the patent to various parties. The 460 acre portion which included Fort Stanwix was acquired by William Livingston and Alida Hoffman.<sup>1</sup>

In March, 1786, Dominick Lynch, a New York City merchant, purchased the "Expense Lot" at auction, and in July of the same year acquired the portion of the patent which had been owned jointly by Livingston and Hoffman. Through the purchase of contiguous parcels, Lynch increased his holdings in the area to about 2000 acres by 1800.<sup>2</sup>

Within the next decade William Weston, an English engineer, surveyed Lynch's property and in 1796 drew a map indicating the village plan.<sup>3</sup> Streets were arranged in a simple grid pattern, forming blocks measuring 400 by 600 feet, with the lengthwise axis running east to west.<sup>4</sup> The blocks were sub-divided into building lots, each measuring 66 feet wide and 200 feet deep. Access to the interior of the blocks was provided by various alley arrangements. Lynch called the future city Lynchville, and named the two central thoroughfares after himself and his son, James.

Lynch had chosen the site of his proposed settlement carefully and wisely. From earliest times this area of central New York State had been well-served by inland water routes. A portage route, known as the "Oneida Carrying Place," formed a strategic land connection between Wood Creek, which was the beginning of the water route to the Great Lakes, and the Mohawk River, which flowed into the Hudson River and eventually into the Atlantic. Fort Stanwix was one of several defensive structures built during the eighteenth century to protect this transportation route. This connection was greatly improved in

1797 when the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company opened a canal which linked the Mohawk with Wood Creek. A visitor to Rome in 1802 noted that "this water communication is of incalculable benefit to this part of the world. Produce may be sent both ways . . ."<sup>5</sup>

The ruins of Fort Stanwix stood on what was designated on Weston's map as the eastern part of block twelve. It was situated on what are now lots five through fourteen and possibly also on parts of lots four and fifteen. During the next century this block was to play a crucial role in the transformation of the village of Lynchville into the city of Rome.

The Empire House as it now stands consists of two major sections, a central three-story block and a two story wing to the east. At various times several extensions have been added to the rear of these connected structures. According to local tradition, the small east wing was built in the late eighteenth century and is reputedly the oldest building standing in Rome. The central three-story block assumed its present form about 1883-84.

In 1796 Dominick Lynch, founder of Rome, leased this property to John Barnard.<sup>6</sup> In the early days of Lynchville, as the settlement was then called, Lynch did not convey titles to land through deeds but instead leased property.

Within the next three years ownership of the property had passed to James Gould, for on May 1, 1799, Gould sold the property to John Barnard for £600, subject to payments of £198.12 within one month and of £100 by March 14, 1800.<sup>7</sup> Additional interest on £200 was also to be paid by the latter date.<sup>8</sup> Barnard became a large landowner in the settlement and erected many of the village's early buildings.<sup>9</sup> The land conveyed in this transaction consisted of lot four plus twenty-six feet off of the eastern part of lot three, which together formed a parcel measuring 92 feet wide along Dominick Street and Stone Alley and 200 feet deep. The size of the parcel at that time was apparently the same as it was in 1796, and the dimensions of the plot have remained the same up to the present time.

Through a deed dated August 12, 1799, Barnard transferred to Caleb Putnam a mortgage held on the property to Gould.<sup>10</sup> This mortgage may be what was referred to as the £200 on which Barnard was to pay the interest,<sup>11</sup> as described above. Presumably this transaction was related to Barnard's other real estate activities during that same year when he was forced to make an assignment of some other property to Putnam.<sup>12</sup> By August of 1799 a building was standing on the property, for the conveyance of that date mentioned "the house Lot with the Dwelling House thereon . . ."<sup>13</sup>

According to local tradition the building referred to as "the Dwelling House" was used as a tavern. Daniel Wager, local chronicler of Rome's early history, wrote that the building was in fact built as a tavern and that it was kept by Cicero Gould in 1799.<sup>14</sup> Another

account, written in 1878 and attempting to describe Rome as it had appeared in 1810, included the following information:

N.Y.  
33-P.44

Prior to 1800 part of the house [now called the Empire House] . . . was erected on that site by Cicero Gould as a tavern. It was used as such for many years, and old persons have informed us they remembered the time when the sheds and fence extended across the street at that point.<sup>15</sup>

On June 26, 1800, Putnam relinquished all of his interest in the mortgaged premises,<sup>16</sup> and on the following day it was recorded that the property had been sold to George Huntington.<sup>17</sup>

Huntington owned the western portion of lot three, on which a dwelling house had been erected.<sup>18</sup> It is interesting to note an earlier business relationship between Huntington and Barnard. In the spring of 1793 Barnard had kept a tavern just northeast of the court house. About this time Huntington arrived in Rome and established in Barnard's tavern the first store in the village.<sup>19</sup> Both Barnard and Huntington are included among the early settlers and prominent men in Rome prior to 1800.<sup>20</sup> In 1800 Barnard headed a household of twelve persons.<sup>21</sup>

Tradition also relates that the building was later owned by a man named Olmstead,<sup>22</sup> although his ownership does not appear to be included in the county land records. Reportedly, while Olmstead occupied the building, The First Religious Society of Rome held services there.<sup>23</sup> In 1807 the congregational council, whose task it was to ratify the first minister's credentials, met at Olmstead's and marched to the yet unfinished church building where the new minister was installed.<sup>24</sup>

In 1809, Wheeler Barnes purchased the property from Lemeul Storrs, of Middletown, Connecticut.<sup>25</sup> Storrs, along with Cicero Gould, was listed as "among the prominent men"<sup>26</sup> living in Rome prior to 1800, but within the next few years he had moved to Connecticut. Barnes paid \$1150 for the property,<sup>27</sup> which was subject to a yearly ground rent of \$9.94 payable to Storrs.<sup>28</sup> Barnes immediately mortgaged the property to Storrs for \$1150, payable in six equal annual payments.<sup>29</sup> Twelve years later, in 1821, Barnes mortgaged the property to Dominick Lynch.<sup>30</sup> Payments on this mortgage were to be made over a period of twenty years with the interest rate set at five per cent. A later conveyance indicated that Barnes had met the interest payments but had not reduced the amount of the principal.<sup>31</sup>

Barnes owned the land until 1830, a period of twenty-one years. When he had purchased it in 1809, he was about 27 years old and had resided in Rome approximately three years. Barnes apparently resided

in the former tavern<sup>32</sup> and "had his law office in a small frame building which stood near the street, in the southeast corner of the yard."<sup>33</sup> The existence and location of this building is shown on a map drawn in 1834,<sup>34</sup> which indicates that it was a small structure with its gable to the street. William Curtis Noyes, who was later to become the well-known New York attorney, practiced law with Barnes. In 1825 when the Marquis de Lafayette visited Rome, he was greeted at the American Hotel by Barnes, who by then had established a reputation as a prominent lawyer of the city.<sup>35</sup> While Barnes owned this property he was elected to two terms as supervisor of the town of Rome, and to four terms as trustee of Rome village. In 1816 Barnes was elected to a term in the state assembly.<sup>36</sup>

NY  
33-Rom

In July, 1828, Barnes purchased lots five and six which adjoined lot four on the east. On lots five and six Barnes erected a Federal style brick house, a portion of which is now part of the Rome Club. Two years later, when the new house was apparently completed, Barnes and his wife, Emma, sold lots three and four to George Brown, of Rome, for \$1600, subject to Barnes' \$300 mortgage and the interest thereon.<sup>37</sup>

Like Barnes, Brown was active in local politics, having served as supervisor of the town from 1827<sup>38</sup> through 1830.<sup>39</sup> Brown resided in the building,<sup>40</sup> and reputedly enlarged it<sup>41</sup> before he sold it in 1841. Any improvements made by Brown were evidently carried out between 1834 and 1841, for the map drawn in 1834 does not suggest any additions.

In any case, extensive improvements had been made to the building by 1851, when it was owned by Henry A. Foster, who had purchased the land in September 1847.<sup>42</sup> Between 1841 and 1847 the property had passed through several hands. In the fall of 1841 Brown had been forced to convey the titles to this property and to other holdings for \$1.00 to Alva Mudge (who had just recently purchased the Barnes house to the east), Jessie Armstrong, and George Patten.<sup>43</sup> Brown had been forced to sell this real estate because of his debts to various persons, but he evidently had been able to retain some property, for the tax assessment rolls of 1842 indicate that he was assessed for a "H/ouse/ Store & Lots," valued at \$3000.<sup>44</sup>

By 1847 the property had passed to Paschal B. Smith and his wife, of Cincinnati,<sup>45</sup> for in September of that year it was purchased by Foster for \$3000. A map published in 1851,<sup>46</sup> indicates a building joined onto the older building in a fashion very similar to the way the main block of the hotel is now connected to the old wing. A view published in 1873<sup>47</sup> indicates that that building was a two-story structure with a gabled roof and was five bays wide along Dominick Street. The building appeared to be residential in character.

N.Y.  
33-Rm

That structure was rebuilt about 1883 into the hotel building which stands on the site today. Much of the fabric of the house was destroyed, although a few elements, such as the pilasters and a door in the hotel hallway may be original to the earlier structure. In 1857 this building was termed "the house of H. A. Foster" and the house was carefully differentiated from the "wing east of the house."<sup>48</sup> By 1851 the wing on the rear (north) side of the east wing had also been erected.

Foster occupied this building as his home. Census records from 1850 indicate that Foster's son and daughter, her husband, Derrick Boardman, and a granddaughter also lived in the house with Foster and his wife.<sup>49</sup> Four women, natives of Ireland and Wales and all in their twenties, also resided there, presumably as servants but possibly as boarders.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1800, Foster arrived in Rome in 1819, after having studied law in Cazenovia, Onondaga Hill, and Oswego. In Rome he continued his studies with James Sherman, whose daughter, Martha, became Foster's wife in 1824. Admitted to the bar in the court of common pleas in 1822, he was appointed county surrogate in 1827, thus beginning many years of public office. He served in several local elective offices, as state senator, as Congressman and as U. S. senator. In 1863 he was elected Supreme Court judge in the fifth judicial district.

Foster was a prime mover in changing the route of the Erie Canal from its early route through the Rome Swamp to its course nearer the village and in arranging for the New York Central Railroad line to pass through Rome.<sup>50</sup> He was also a promoter of the Utica and Syracuse Railroad. He served as president of the Bank of Rome and for many years as president of the Board of Trustees of Hamilton College. At his death in 1889, the Rome Sentinel noted that Foster

was an intellectual giant among his fellows.  
He was a prominent figure in politics of state and nation for many years, and his name was power to his party . . . In the death of Judge Foster one of the most illustrious citizens of New York has passed away.<sup>51</sup>

In 1861 his house and lot were valued at \$1700,<sup>52</sup> and in August of that year the house was sold.<sup>53</sup> Meanwhile, at some time between 1860<sup>54</sup> and 1862 Miss Mary J. Whittemore, a native of New Hampshire, had arrived in Rome and established a school. In 1862 she and Miss A. F. Whittemore operated the "Stanwix Seminary for young ladies," located on George Street above Thomas Street.<sup>55</sup>

Evidently the seminary flourished, for on January 1, 1864, Mary Whittemore, then 36 years old, purchased the Foster property

for \$2400<sup>56</sup> and used it to house the school. It is notable that at this time the land was still subject to the ground rent of \$4.94 a year. The building was used as a seminary through the rest of the decade. In the fall of 1867 and again in 1868 and 1869 Miss Whittemore advertised the institution in a Rome newspaper:

NY  
33-Pam

STANWIX SEMINARY.

HOME BOARDING AND DAY  
SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES, ROME, ONEIDA  
COUNTY, NEW YORK.

The Fall Term of this institution will commence  
on WEDNESDAY, the 23d of September, 1867.

For circulars apply to

Miss M. J. WHITTEMORE,  
Principal, Rome, N.Y.<sup>57</sup>

While the property was listed on the tax rolls as a seminary through 1870, the William Bowens family and another woman and her daughter also lived in the building.<sup>58</sup>

In 1871 the description of the property was changed to a house and lot and the valuation was increased from \$1800 to \$2000, probably indicating that some improvements had been made.<sup>59</sup> The property was indicated as a house and lot throughout the 1870's, except in 1874, when it was listed as "H/ouse/ & L/ot/ Seminary."<sup>60</sup>

Curiously, in the fall of that same year, 1874, the "Stanwix Seminary, Day School for Young Ladies, Thomas street, Rome" was advertised in a Rome newspaper by the principal, Miss L. F. Kimball.<sup>61</sup> The 1870 census had listed Lucilla Kimball as a 30-year-old teacher, residing in a "Boarding School."<sup>62</sup> Perhaps not coincidentally she too was a native of New Hampshire.

By 1873-74 Miss Whittemore had left Rome,<sup>63</sup> and when she sold the property a decade later she resided in Nashua, New Hampshire. The establishment of a free school system in Rome during the summer of 1869 may well have affected Miss Whittemore's decision to move.

During the early 1880's the building was used as a boarding house, run by Emma Taber, wife of Henry Taber, an engineer at the Rome Iron Works.<sup>64</sup> During 1880 twelve boarders resided there, and in 1881 Taber advertised the boarding house in the city directory.<sup>65</sup> Between 1880 and 1881 the valuation of the building on the tax rolls was raised from \$3150 to \$3300.<sup>66</sup> A view of Rome published about 1878 indicates the appearance of the building quite clearly (see HABS photocopy).

N.Y.  
33-Rom

On April 16, 1883, Miss Whittemore conveyed the property to Anthony Baynes, of Rome, for \$8800,<sup>67</sup> and he immediately mortgaged the property to her.<sup>68</sup> Tax assessment figures for the subsequent years support Wager's statement that the house was "rebuilt in its present shape" by Baynes.<sup>69</sup> From the 1882 valuation of \$3300 the valuation rose to \$4500 in 1883<sup>70</sup> and then to \$6000 in 1884.<sup>71</sup> The building has been called the "Empire House" from the beginning of Baynes' ownership, although Baynes was engaged in various other business enterprises and did not operate the hotel personally, employing "proprietors" instead. The plan and exterior features of the Empire House have been changed very little over the years; the interior walls of the building are remarkable for their rich variety of pressed sheet metal designs. At Baynes' death in 1891, the following obituary appeared in a Rome newspaper:

#### Death of Anthony Baynes

Anthony Baynes died of congestion of the liver at his home on Mill street, at 12:40 A.M. to-day, aged about 48 years. The deceased always lived in this city. He was engaged in boating, in which business he prospered and accumulated considerable property. He was the owner of the Empire House in this city. He leaves his wife and a daughter, aged 12 years, also two brothers, John and William Baynes of this city.<sup>72</sup>

Baynes bequeathed the Empire House, along with other property, to his daughter, Maria,<sup>73</sup> who in 1907 married John R. Harper. She retained title to the property until it was sold to the Rome Urban Renewal Agency.

After Baynes' death, the business was carried on by various parties. In 1892 the following advertisement appeared in the city directory:

EMPIRE HOUSE,  
O. KNOWLTON, Proprietor.  
111 East Dominick Street ROME, N.Y.  
Rates, \$1.00 Per Day. Single Meals 25 Cts.  
Special Rates by the Week

---

First-Class Barn Attached<sup>74</sup>

During the following year the advertisements boasted that there was a telephone on the premises.<sup>75</sup> By 1896 and through 1899 the hotel was kept by George W. Baynes,<sup>76</sup> presumably a relative of the builder.

NY

At about the turn of the century Joseph O'Brien became the proprietor and ran the hotel for many years as a family business (see HABS photocopy). An atlas of 1907 indicates that the plan of the "Empire Hotel" was essentially identical to its present plan, except for the stucco addition at the northwest corner of the building.<sup>77</sup> Three large outbuildings extended along the alley, and another one was located along the west property line. One of these buildings must have been the "First-Class Barn" mentioned in the advertisements.

An insurance map published in 1930 indicates that the stucco extension at the northwest corner of the building had been erected by this time.<sup>78</sup> At the rear of the lot were two large buildings also labeled "Hotel," but presumably this indicated only that the buildings formed part of the hotel complex, not that they contained accommodations for guests. The establishment is now operated as "Ken's Empire House."

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Samuel W. Durant, History of Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: Evert & Fariss, 1878), p. 375.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>William Weston, "Map of Lynchville," 1796.

<sup>4</sup>The existing block and lot numbers have been changed from the original numbers. The block on which Fort Stanwix stood was originally block twelve, but is now block seven. The present parcel numbers do not correspond to the original lot numbers. In tracing the history of the block over a period of about 175 years, it was necessary to refer to these original lot numbers, which are shown on the 1874 map.

<sup>5</sup>"Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk & Black River Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III, 1138.

<sup>6</sup>This lease is not indexed in the land records of Oneida County and does not appear to have been recorded. Reference to the lease does, however, appear in subsequent conveyances of the property; the earliest reference is in Oneida County Deeds, Book 51, p. 109.

<sup>7</sup>Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 389.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Durant, p. 376.

- 10 Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 390.
- 11 Ibid., p. 389.
- 12 Durant, p. 376.
- 13 Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 390.
- 14 Daniel E. Wager, Our City and Its People, a Descriptive Work on the City of Rome New York (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1896), p. 53.
- 15 Durant, p. 382.
- 16 Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 390.
- 17 Ibid., p. 391.
- 18 Ibid., Book 31, p. 294.
- 19 Pomroy Jones, Annals and Recollections of Oneida County (Rome: By the author, 1851), p. 372.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Second Census (1800), New York, Vol. 108, Oneida County, p. 382.
- 22 Wager, p. 53. Also The First Presbyterian Church of Rome, The First One Hundred and Fifty Years 1800-1950 (The First Presbyterian Church of Rome, 1950), p. 17. This church account indicates that he was Timothy Olmstead; the conveyance of the land to Olmstead does not appear to be indexed in the county land records.
- 23 First Presbyterian Church of Rome, p. 17.
- 24 Ibid., p. 22.
- 25 Oneida County Deeds, Book 31, p. 294. Lemuel Storrs may well be the same person as Samuel Starr of Storr, as the old script is difficult to read and his name has been indexed in various ways in the county land records.
- 26 Rome Directory, 1857.
- 27 Oneida County Deeds, Book 31, p. 294.
- 28 This is the only reference to a ground rent in the amount of \$9.94 in the various land records for this property. All other accounts refer to the amount of \$4.94, and the former figure may have been erroneously copied.

N.Y.  
33-Rom

<sup>29</sup>Oneida County Mortgages, Book 5, p. 300.

N.Y

<sup>30</sup>Ibid., Book 8, p. 550.

33-ROOM

<sup>31</sup>Ibid., Deeds, Book 51, p. 109.

<sup>32</sup>Whether or not he lived there during this entire period of ownership is open to speculation, although various sources agree that Barnes lived there at some point. The 1830 census (p. 386) indicated that his household included eleven persons, certainly a large number for this small building.

<sup>33</sup>Durant, p. 378.

<sup>34</sup>New York State Canal Commissioners, comp., Erie Canal From a Survey Made by Holmes Hutchinson (1834), Vol. 7, plate 53.

<sup>35</sup>Daniel E. Wager, ed., Our County and Its People, A Descriptive Work on Oneida County, New York (Boston: The Boston History Co., 1896), p. 190.

<sup>36</sup>D. E. Wager, Men, Events, Lawyers, Politics and Politicians of Early Rome (Utica: Oneida Historical Society, 1879), pp. 24-25.

<sup>37</sup>Oneida County Deeds, Book 51, p. 109.

<sup>38</sup>Rome Directory, 1857.

<sup>39</sup>Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 41.

<sup>40</sup>Oneida County Deeds, Book 103, p. 234.

<sup>41</sup>Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 53.

<sup>42</sup>Oneida County Deeds, Book 133, p. 475.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid., Vol. 103, p. 234.

<sup>44</sup>Rome Assessment Rolls, 1842, n.p.

<sup>45</sup>Oneida County Deeds, Book 133, p. 475.

<sup>46</sup>Henry Hart, surveyor, Map of Rome Oneida County New York . . . 1851.

<sup>47</sup>Birds Eye View of Rome 1873 Oneida County New York.

<sup>48</sup>Rome Directory, 1857.

<sup>49</sup>Seventh Census (1850), New York, Vol. 61, Oneida County, p. 36.

50 "Hon. Henry A. Foster, His Death Liable to Occur at Any Moment," The Rome Daily Sentinel, May 12, 1889.

N.Y.

33-Rom

51 Ibid.

52 Rome Assessment Rolls, 1861.

53 Oneida County Deeds, Book 248, p. 101. On August 15, 1861, the Foster house, which was then mortgaged, was sold at a sherriff's sale to the Utica City Bank for \$150. Legal action against Foster and his wife and two Rome banks was brought by Jared E. Warner, President of the Utica City Bank, and Derrick Boardman, Foster's son-in-law. Further investigation should be undertaken to determine the conditions which brought about this transaction, which probably was not the result of any personal or family differences.

54 Her name does not appear to be included in the 1860 census.

55 Rome Directory 1862-63.

56 Oneida County Deeds, Book 248, p. 334.

57 The Rome Sentinel, September 10, 1867.

58 Ninth Census (1870), New York, Vol. 77, Oneida County, pp. 28-29.

59 Rome Assessment Rolls, 1871.

60 Ibid., 1874.

61 Rome Sentinel, November 3, 1874. This reference was provided by Mrs. Parker Scripture, of Oriskany, N.Y.

62 Ninth Census (1870), New York, Vol. 77, Oneida County, p. 29.

63 Rome Directory 1873-74.

64 Tenth Census (1880), New York, Vol. 69, Oneida County, p. 24.

65 Rome Directory, 1881.

66 Rome Assessment Rolls, 1880, 1881.

67 Oneida County Deeds, Book 424, p. 223.

68 Ibid., Mortgages, Book 259, p. 478.

69 Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 239.

70 Rome Assessment Rolls, 1883.

<sup>71</sup>Ibid., 1884.

<sup>72</sup>Rome Sentinel, April 6, 1891.

<sup>73</sup>Oneida County Deeds, Book 509, p. 337.

<sup>74</sup>Rome Directory, 1892.

<sup>75</sup>Rome Directory, 1893.

<sup>76</sup>Rome Directory, 1899. Also, Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 239.

<sup>77</sup>New Century Atlas Oneida County New York (Philadelphia: Century Map Co., 1907), plate 66.

<sup>78</sup>Insurance Map of Rome Including Stanwix Village and Ridge Mills (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1930), n.p.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. Description of Exterior:

#### 1. Central Block (1883-84 Hotel):

- a. Number of stories: Three stories.
- b. Number of bays: North and south (front) facades are five bays wide; cornice brackets suggest four bays on east and west facades, but windows are irregularly placed.
- c. Over-all dimensions: South facade measures approximately 45 feet, west facade 61 feet, including stucco addition.
- d. Layout, shape: The original part of this block is nearly square in plan. At the northeast (rear) corner of the building is a frame addition which is rectangular in plan; at the northwest corner there is a stucco addition, also rectangular in plan.
- e. Foundations: At the southeast and southwest corners of the building foundations are of cut stone, covered in part by stucco. Foundations north of this are of irregular stone.

- f. Wall construction, finish and color: Wood clapboard, painted gray with dark green trim, vertical boards at corners of building. NY 33-100M
- g. Structural system: Wooden frame construction.
- h. Porch: One-story wooden porch supported by square columns extends across entire south (front) facade. Wooden stairs lead up to porch and extend across entire south facade. Porch is decorated with dentillated cornice, brackets, and semicircular wooden trim pierced in a manner reminiscent of spokes of a wheel. Old photographs show balustrade along porch roof line.
- i. Chimneys: One chimney at east end of east and west facades near south end. Chimneys appear to have been rebuilt.
- j. Openings:
- (1) Doorways and door: Paneled double doors to central hallway are recessed and have wooden, paneled reveal. Upper section of doors is arched and holds glass with a frosted design; lower section consists of rectangular, moulded panel.
  - (2) Windows: First floor windows have moulded cornices, while second and third floor windows have cornices consisting of "eared" triangular pediments supported by brackets and with a scroll-like design under the pediment. Third floor windows on north facade have two-over-two light double-hung sash; other sash have been replaced with one-over-one light double-hung sash.
- k. Roof:
- (1) Shape, covering: Roof appears to be flat.
  - (2) Cornice: Wooden cornice. Bays separated by double sets of brackets, quarter circle in shape and pierced like porch trim. Wooden frieze, soffit and cornice were once all painted green.
2. Wooden addition at northeast corner of central block:
- a. Number of stories: Two stories.

- b. Number of bays: North facade is two bays wide. N.Y.  
33 Rom
  - c. Layout, shape: Rectangular in plan.
  - d. Foundations: Irregular fieldstone.
  - e. Wall construction, finish and color: Wooden clapboard, painted gray with green trim.
  - f. Structural system: Wooden frame; where some clapboards on north facade have been removed, brick nogging is visible.
  - g. Bulkhead: Bulkhead is located near center of north facade, just under French doors. Stone walls stuccoed, wooden doors rotted.
  - h. Chimneys: Remains of one chimney at center of north end of gable.
  - i. Openings:
    - (1) Doors and doorway: Double French doors with three lights on first story at center of north facade.
    - (2) Windows: One-over-one light double-hung sash.
  - j. Roof:
    - (1) Shape, covering: Gabled roof with black composition covering.
    - (2) Cornice: Wooden cornice and frieze.
3. Stucco addition at northwest corner of central block:
- a. Number of stories: Two stories.
  - b. Number of bays: West facade is four bays wide; north facade has four irregularly-spaced bays.
  - c. Foundations: Cut stone.
  - d. Wall construction, finish and color: Stucco, over clay tile.
  - e. Structural system: Wooden frame.
  - f. Porches: Shed-like projection composed of vertical boarding painted green over rear entrance.

g. Openings:

N.Y

33-Rom

(1) Door: Paneled wooden door.

(2) Windows: One-over-one light double-hung sash.

h. Roof:

(1) Shape: Flat roof.

(2) Cornice: Sheet metal cornice.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan, by floor: First floor: Central entrance hall has open well stairway leading up to second floor hotel rooms. To west of central hall and extending north to stucco addition is the bar room. This room has a separate outside entrance located on the west side of the south wall. A closet projects along part of the south section of the west wall. North of this closet along the same wall is the bar. North of this room is a narrow hallway running north to south; two rest rooms open off of the west wall of this hall. Opening off of the east side of the central entrance hall is a smaller room. North of this room is an L-shaped room which opens onto the east side of the bar room. The northeast corner of this room is partially divided into separate spaces by two archways, at right angles to each other. One spans the space east and west, and the other spans north and south. Opening off of the east side of this room is the old wing of the building.

Second floor: Except where noted, these rooms were all locked and it was not possible to gain access. The following information on the floor plan was gained by examination of halls and by talking to the caretaker. On the west side of the central hall are two large bedrooms. At the south end of the hall is another stairway with winders that leads to the third floor. There is another large bedroom in the southeast corner. A doorway about midway along the east hall wall opens to a narrow hallway. Three smaller rooms open off the east side of this hall. At the north end of this hall, an opening leads to the second floor of the old part of the house. This hallway extends east at right angles. A bathroom, closet and several bedrooms open off of the north and west sides of this hall.

Third floor: A stairway leads up from the second floor at the middle of south wall. Fitted into the corner of

HABS  
N.Y.  
33-6001  
1-

the stairway is a small bathroom. A hallway extends the width of the building from the east to west exterior walls, thus dividing this floor into two banks of rooms. Five bedrooms open off the north side of this hall, and four open off the south side.

2. Stairways: Open well stairway in entrance hall has two flights, with landing between. Balusters are very slender, with very shallow profiles. Ornamental brackets are under treads along stringer. Stairway from second to third floors consists of two flights with winders between.
3. Flooring: The bar room has modern hardwood floor. Other floors are of wood boards, covered with tile or linoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Entrance hall has wooden wainscoating around stairwell. Other walls are covered with pressed sheet metal. Bar room walls are covered with wooden vertical wainscoating and with horizontal boarding above; cornice and ceiling are covered with pressed sheet metal in a diaper design. Walls in rooms on rest of first floor are plastered and painted and have a wooden chair rail; covering of pressed sheet metal forms coffered ceiling and cornice. Walls of hallway to rest rooms is covered with pressed sheet metal wainscoating and a swag and fleur de lis design in sheet metal above. On second floor, hall walls and ceiling are covered with pressed sheet metal. On third floor, walls are covered with pressed sheet metal and ceilings are plastered.
5. Doors: Various paneled wooden doors; third floor doors have glass transoms.
6. Lighting: Electrical lighting; gas lines remain in third floor rooms.
7. Heating: Stove pipe opening into closet on west wall of bar room. Building now has hot water heat.

C. Description of Exterior - East Wing:

1. Number of stories: Main portion is two stories, rear wing is one story.
2. Number of bays: South (front) facade is three bays wide; east facade is two bays wide; east facade of rear extension is two bays wide.

3. Over-all dimensions: South facade measures approximately 144 26 feet; east facade including rear ell measures approximately 33-40m 45 feet.
4. Layout, plan: Main portion is rectangular in plan, with west facade joined to the east facade of the Empire House; wing at rear of building makes it L-shaped in plan.
5. Foundations: Foundations of main portion are of random size cut stone; foundations under east wall of rear wing are of irregular flat stones, while north and west portion foundations are of more rounded stones.
6. Walls: Clapboard, painted gray with green trim, wooden water table. There is no break in the clapboards between the main section and the rear wing. Also, this clapboarding appears to be the same as that on main block of hotel, thus suggesting that the east wing may have been re-sided when hotel was built.
7. Structural system: Wooden frame.
8. Porch: A porch once extended across the south (front) of main portion of wing; double French doors opened onto this porch from east wall of hotel. Granite blocks, apparently the foundations for the porch, are carved with variations of leaf and dart and bead and reel moldings.
9. Chimney: One chimney along east part of north wall of main section.
10. Openings:
  - a. Doorways: Wooden paneled door in central bay of south facade.
  - b. Windows: Six-over-six light double-hung sash; simple wooden window and door cornice composed of narrow wooden strip projecting beyond wider, flat board below.
11. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Both portions have gabled roofs, covered with asbestos paper.
  - b. Cornice: Wooden cornice.

D. Description of Interior - East Wing:

1. Floor plan: First floor: Entry to this old section is

now through a doorway from the main block of the hotel, at the south corner of the west wall of the old part. A hallway is formed by a partition running east to west. At the northeast corner of the building is an enclosed stairway to the second floor. NY  
33-1007

Second floor: There are three rooms on the second floor, opening off the stairhall, which runs east and west. Opening off the north wall of this hall is a small bedroom. At the east end of the hall a larger bedroom extends the width of the house, with two closets along the north wall under the low section of the roof. Opening off the south wall of the stairhall is another small bedroom, which is connected by a doorway on its west wall to the Empire House.

2. Stairway: Enclosed stairway with two flights of stairs with winders is at northeast corner of building.
3. Flooring: Wooden flooring, in some cases covered with modern tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: First floor room has plaster walls and pressed sheet metal ceiling. Second floor hall has pressed sheet metal wall covering. Other ceilings and walls are plastered.
5. Lighting: Electrical lighting on first floor.

E. Site and Surroundings:

1. Orientation and general setting: South facade faces south onto Dominick Street. This wing is set back from the street and connects to the rear of the hotel.
2. Walks: Walk leads from Dominick Street up to central doorway of wing. Concrete steps lead up to wooden porch of hotel.

Prepared by Diana S. Waite  
Architectural Historian  
June 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

At the request of the Rome Urban Renewal Agency, the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service arranged in the spring of 1970 to have recorded five historic nineteenth-century

buildings on the site of Fort Stanwix. The site of this important colonial fortification is scheduled to be cleared for archeological investigation and for reconstruction by the National Park Service. Funding for the necessary research and the preparation of the records for the HABS archives was provided by the Rome Urban Renewal Agency (William H. Flinchbaugh, Executive Director) as part of the Fort Stanwix-Central Business District Urban Renewal Project (NYR-173). Mrs. Diana Waite prepared the historic documentation and the architectural descriptions; Jack E. Boucher made the detailed photographic record; the project was under the general supervision of John C. Poppeliers, Senior Editor of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

NY  
33-Rom